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General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

39th plenary meeting
Monday, 24 October 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 30 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/66/495)

Letter dated 5 October 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/66/496)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly will first proceed to a by-election to elect members of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with rule 140 of the rules of procedure.

In that connection, I would first like to draw the attention of members to documents A/66/495 and A/66/496, which contain letters dated 30 September and 5 October 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Monaco and the Russian Federation to the United Nations, respectively.

In her letter, the Permanent Representative of Monaco announces, in her capacity as Chair of the Group of Western European and other States, that Belgium will relinquish its seat on the Economic and Social Council at the end of 2011 for the remainder of its term in favour of the Netherlands, and that Norway will relinquish its seat on the Council at the end of 2011 for the remainder of its term in favour of Switzerland.

In his letter, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation announces, in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Eastern European States, that Hungary will relinquish its seat on the Economic and Social Council at the end of 2011 for the remainder of its term in favour of Bulgaria.

As a result, three vacancies will occur and new members must therefore be elected to fill the unexpired terms of office of Belgium, Hungary and Norway, commencing on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2012, in the case of Belgium, and 31 December 2013 in the cases of Hungary and Norway.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2847 (XXVI), of 20 December 1971, and taking into account that the vacancies will occur from among the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Western European and other States, the new members should therefore be elected from those regions.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the candidates who receive the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of the votes by members present and voting will be declared elected. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

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The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations. We shall now proceed accordingly.

I should like to inform members that, as of 1 January 2012, the following States from the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Western European and other States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Australia, Canada, Finland, Italy, Latvia, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The names of those 10 States should therefore not appear on the ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. In addition, ballot papers will only be distributed to the representatives seated directly behind the country's nameplate.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Allow me to remind members that they are now voting in the by-election for one seat for the Group of Eastern European States and two seats for the Group of Western European and other States. The election of 18 members of the Council will take place immediately following this by-election.

Ballot papers marked with the letters A and B will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote. A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if all the names of the Member States on that ballot do not belong to the relevant region.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Apeyitou (Cyprus), Ms. Reyes (Honduras), Mr. Macchia (Italy), Ms. Mwaura (Kenya), Ms. Šćepanović (Montenegro) and Mrs. Sulimani (Sierra Leone) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.25 a.m. and resumed at 11 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	187
Abstentions:	11
Number of members voting:	176
Required two-thirds majority:	118
Number of votes obtained:	
Bulgaria	150
Belarus	24
Hungary	2

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	8
Number of members voting:	180
Required two-thirds majority:	120
Number of votes obtained:	
Switzerland	161
Netherlands	159
France	13
Germany	9
Turkey	4
Belgium	2
Ireland	2
Spain	2
Malta	1
Norway	1
Sweden	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Switzerland were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 and ending on 31 December 2012, in the case of the Netherlands, and 31 December 2013 in the cases of Bulgaria and Switzerland.

The President: I congratulate Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Switzerland on having been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

The General Assembly will next turn to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social

Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2011.

The 18 outgoing members are: Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Japan, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Pursuant to rule 146 of the rules of procedure, those countries are eligible for immediate re-election.

Members will recall that Belgium, Hungary and Norway relinquished their seats on the Council, effective 1 January 2012, and that Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Switzerland have just been elected to fill those vacancies.

Consequently, as of 1 January 2012, the following States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Argentina, Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, the Comoros, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Iraq, Italy, Latvia, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia. The names of those 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2847 (XXVI), of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States that will remain members of the Council after 1 January 2012, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, three from Asian and Pacific States, one from Eastern European States, four from Latin American and Caribbean States and five from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

I should like to inform the General Assembly that those candidates — their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled — that receive a two-thirds majority and the greatest number of votes by members present and voting, will be declared elected. Consistent with past practice, in the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

With regard to candidatures of the respective regional groups, the Secretariat has been informed of the following. For the five vacant seats from among the African States, the Group has endorsed five candidates: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Libya and Nigeria. For the three vacant seats from among the Asian and Pacific States, the Group has endorsed three candidates: India, Indonesia and Japan. For the one vacant seat from among the Eastern European States, the Group has endorsed Belarus. For the four vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group has endorsed four candidates: Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. For the five vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, the Group has endorsed five candidates: France, Germany, Ireland, Spain and Turkey.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

We shall now begin the voting process. Ballot papers marked A, B, C, D and E will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if none of the names of the Member States on that ballot belongs to the relevant region. If a ballot paper of a region contains names of Member States that do not belong to that region, the ballot remains valid, but only the names of the Member States that belong to the relevant region will be counted. The names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Apeyitou (Cyprus), Ms. Reyes (Honduras), Mr. Macchia (Italy), Ms. Mwaura (Kenya), Ms. Šćepanović (Montenegro) and Mrs. Sulimani (Sierra Leone) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 12:30 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	193
Required two-thirds majority:	129
Number of votes obtained:	
Burkina Faso	193
Ethiopia	189
Lesotho	189
Nigeria	188
Libya	177

Group B — Asian and Pacific States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	193
Required two-thirds majority:	129
Number of votes obtained:	
Indonesia	191
India	189
Japan	186
Afghanistan	1

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	3
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	18
Number of members voting:	172
Required two-thirds majority:	115
Number of votes obtained:	
Belarus	172

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	191
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Dominican Republic	188
El Salvador	187
Brazil	186
Cuba	183

Group E — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	191
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Spain	182
France	181
Germany	181
Ireland	181
Turkey	179
Belgium	1
Norway	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority of members present and voting, the following 18 States were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2012: Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria, Spain and Turkey.

The President: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 113.

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): As members will recall, at its 37th and 38th plenary meetings, held on 21 October, following nine rounds of balloting, including five rounds of restricted balloting and three rounds of unrestricted balloting, the General Assembly elected Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo as members of the Security Council for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2012.

There remains one seat to be filled from among the Group of Eastern European States. We shall therefore proceed to the sixth restricted ballot. In accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, this

tenth round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Azerbaijan and Slovenia.

We will now begin the voting process. Ballot papers marked B will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked B, for the Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Azerbaijan or Slovenia, as well as if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baptista (Angola), Mr. Tegos (Greece), Mrs. Dockendorf (Luxembourg), Ms. Popovici (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Bonifaz (Peru) and Ms. Wairatpanij (Thailand) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.45 p.m. and resumed at 1 p.m.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States	
Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	193
Required two-thirds majority:	129
Number of votes obtained:	
Azerbaijan	110
Slovenia	83

As the result of this ballot has been inconclusive, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Group of Eastern European States in accordance with the rules of procedure. We shall therefore proceed to a fourth unrestricted ballot — the eleventh round of balloting — in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure. That ballot will take place this afternoon at 3 p.m.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.